

CZAR ORDERS SOME REFORMS.

MORE POWER OF SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR MUNICIPALITIES.

Exceptional Laws of Administration to Be Passed—Special Commissioners Now Studying the Question of Improvement in Conditions of the Peasants.

SPECIAL CABLE DISPATCH TO THE SUN.
ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 26.—The Czar's expected manifesto was issued this evening in the form of an imperial decree addressed to the Senate under the title of "A Scheme for the Improvement of the Administration of the State." It opens as follows:

"In accordance with the revered will of our crowned predecessor and thinking increasingly of the welfare of the realm entrusted to us by God, we regard as the duty of the Government, in conjunction with the undeviating maintenance of the immutability of the fundamental laws of the empire, uniting ourselves to the needs of the country, distinguishing all that is really in the interests of the Russian people from tendencies not seldom mistaken and influenced by transitory circumstances.

"When the need of this or that change has been shown to be mature we consider it necessary to meet it, even though it involves the introduction of essential innovations in legislation. We do not doubt that the realization of such an undertaking will meet with the sympathy of the well disposed section of our subjects, who see the true prosperity of the fatherland in the support of civil tranquility and in the uninterrupted satisfaction of the daily needs of the people."

His Majesty places "in the forefront of his care" consideration for the best ordering of the life of the most numerous part of the population, namely, the peasants, adding that the matter is already under examination. Simultaneously with the investigation of the proposal of the Ministry of the Interior, specially selected commissioners are now conferring on the question of peasant life, assisted by local committees experienced in agricultural matters. Continuing, the Czar says:

"We command those to labor to bring the laws regarding the peasantry into conformity with general principles, thereby facilitating the task of assuring the permanent security of this State, which by decrees of the Czar, the Liberator, is recognized as consisting of free citizens, possessing full rights.

"Surveying the wide domains of the uttermost needs of our people, we regard as urgent in the interests of the legal strengthening of civil and public life the adoption of effective measures for safeguarding the law in its full force as the most important pillar of the throne of this autocratic empire, in order that its inviolable fulfillment for all alike shall be regarded as their first duty by all authorities in all places subject to us, that its non-fulfillment shall inevitably bring with it legal responsibility for every arbitrary act, and that persons who have suffered wrong by such acts shall be enabled to secure legal redress.

"Second, that local and municipal institutions should be given as wide scope as possible in the administration of various matters affecting the local welfare, and they should have conferred upon them the necessary independence within legal limits, and that representatives of all sections of the population interested in local matters should be called on equitable conditions to take part in these institutions with the view to the most complete satisfaction possible of their needs. Besides the government and sensitive district institutions hitherto existing there should also be established in close connection with them public institutions for the administration of local affairs in localities of smaller extent.

"Third, that in order to secure equality of persons and classes before the law steps should be taken to bring about the necessary unification of judicial procedure throughout the empire and to assure the independence of the courts.

"Fourth, that for the further development of measures introduced by us for the protection of workmen in factories, workshops and commercial establishments attention is to be given to the question of the introduction of State insurance for workmen.

"Fifth, that there should be a revision of the exceptional laws that were decreed at a time of an unparalleled outbreak of criminal activity on the part of the enemies of public order, the application of which was attended with a grave extension of the discretionary power of the administrative authorities.

"The decree of the Czar confirms the disappointment of the reform leaders. It is the general opinion that the measures announced will necessitate the active participation of M. Witte, the president of the council.

LONDON, Dec. 27.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Standard says that a remarkable feature of the situation is the high favor which M. Witte again enjoys with the Czar, who gives audience to him daily.

STARRED DEFENDING WOMAN.

Lone Man Who Insulted One of Party of Young People Now Locked Up.

Fred Fredericks of 1130 Wolloughby avenue, Brooklyn, is in the German Hospital suffering from two deep stab wounds in the abdomen, which were inflicted early yesterday morning while protecting a young woman from the insults of another man. He will recover. The young woman is Miss Lizzie Shaw, who lives with her parents at 1130 Wolloughby avenue. Fredericks' assailant, John Burkhart, 19 years old, of 272 Grove street, Evergreen, L. I., is locked up in the Newtown station on a charge of felonious assault. He was arrested last night at his home and admitted doing the stabbing.

Fredericks and a party of young men and women were on their way home from a friend's house in Evergreen. Passing through a Norman avenue, near Cypress street, Ridgewood, they met Burkhart, who, it is alleged, insulted Miss Shaw. Fredericks interfered and there was a fight. Burkhart, who was armed with a knife, pulled out a knife and stabbed his antagonist.

ROPE ENDS CHRISTMAS SPREE.

Harmless Maker Told His Wife He Would Brace Up—Went Out and Hanged Himself. Conrad Fredericks, 45 years old, a harness maker, living at 321 East Forty-eighth street, celebrated Christmas after ideas of his own. His wife took him to task for his reckless spree yesterday afternoon.

Fredericks told his wife and three little children that he was going to "brace up," and walked out of the house. Some time later another tenant in the house found his body dangling over the edge of a staircase that led to the roof. He had placed one end of a short rope about his neck, tied the other to the knob of the door leading out on the roof and then hurried himself over the railing.

The ambulance surgeon pronounced him dead.

A GUARANTEED CURE FOR FILLS.—Take three pills of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People.

TOO PORTLY TO BE RESCUED.

Firemen Chop a Window Out to Save Mrs. Conough.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 26.—Two persons were rescued by being carried from a burning building at 3940 and 3942 Linden Boulevard early this morning and several others were assisted out of danger by policemen and firemen. The fire was in the rooming house managed by Mrs. Eva Conough and at that address. Mrs. Conough and a R. Morgan were completely overcome by the smoke and Miss Tillie Heaton was partly overcome. Others were affected by the smoke and dazed by their sudden awakening.

Mrs. Conough and daughter were rescued through a window. The former, who is a corpulent woman, became wedged in the window and firemen chopped away the casing before she could be released.

CHIMES FOR THE EAST SIDE.

Mrs. Lavette Dedicates the Bells for the New St. John's Church.

Mrs. Lavette, representing Archbishop Farley, dedicated yesterday the new chimes of ten bells given recently to St. John's Roman Catholic Church, at Seventy-second street and Second avenue. The bells are the gift of Maschek von Maschek, a member of a noble Bohemian family, a descendant of the Emperor Charles IV. Mrs. Lavette, after the dedicatory prayer, gave a few remarks in recognition of the gift, adding also a word of hearty praise for the wonderfully rapid transformation of the little church.

The Rev. John T. Prout and his congregation obtained possession of the place only two months ago, when the building was purchased from the Knos Presbytery church. Since then windows have been put in and a new altar and new pews have been installed. Mucha, the Parisian artist, who, like Tissot, has turned from worldly to religious subjects, has contributed to the church a painting called "St. John Nepomucene." The artist, who is a friend of Father Prout, is to be in the city for him when he comes to America in January.

Father Prout expects to make the first English translation of the text of the companies Mucha's richly decorated series called "Our Father."

The sponsors for the bells were Otto Freiler, vice marshal of the text of the Austrian Army; John D. Crimmins, George Ehret, Mrs. Joseph O'Donoghue, Bertha Mager, Maria R. Huber, Mrs. W. J. Meyer, Mrs. Catherine Jerik, Mrs. Robert McGinnis, Mrs. Petronella Prout and James Daly. Mr. Crimmins was present and gave a check for \$500 as a contribution to the fund.

Marshal von Schöley will contribute \$1,000. The bells will be set up over the church at once, and on New Year's eve a pageant of civic and public life the adoption of effective measures for safeguarding the law in its full force as the most important pillar of the throne of this autocratic empire, in order that its inviolable fulfillment for all alike shall be regarded as their first duty by all authorities in all places subject to us, that its non-fulfillment shall inevitably bring with it legal responsibility for every arbitrary act, and that persons who have suffered wrong by such acts shall be enabled to secure legal redress.

A MATINEE "PARFAIT."

Last Appearance of Mme. Nordica in Her Fine "Kundry."

The career of "Parfaite" through the electric lighted avenue of fame at the Metropolitan Opera House is nearing its end. The first of the legal responsibility for every arbitrary act, and that persons who have suffered wrong by such acts shall be enabled to secure legal redress.

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MASHER CAUGHT IN A TRAP.

TRAINED A MARRIED PAIR UNTIL THEY WERE SURE OF HIM.

Then the Husband Made a Feigned Retreat and Mr. Miller Promptly Accosted the Wife—Landed in the Snow With Wheel Bumped—Collied by Cop.

Lawrence Miller of 50 Morningside avenue and his wife Julia boarded a south-bound Sixth avenue elevated train at 116th street yesterday, and a few stations further south a little masher got aboard.

Miller first noticed him when Mrs. Miller rather sharply. Mrs. Miller had not noticed him, and Miller concluded that there was no use getting excited over a stare that might be uninteresting.

The little man sat on the opposite side of the car some seats away from Mr. and Mrs. Miller. Miller paid no more attention to him until the train reached Forty-second street. Then Mrs. Miller complained to her husband that the man seemed to be ogling her.

Miller offered to whip the fellow right then and there, but his wife would not countenance getting into a row with a stranger. Miller then contemplated the fellow as he sat there, and the masher looked back at him with a stare that was not uninteresting.

Miller offered to whip the fellow right then and there, but his wife would not countenance getting into a row with a stranger. Miller then contemplated the fellow as he sat there, and the masher looked back at him with a stare that was not uninteresting.

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CITY TRUST CO.

OF NEW YORK.

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Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits, \$2,700,000.

Allows Interest on Deposits, and Transacts a General Trust Business.

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WALTER W. LEE, Asst. Secretary

GREATEST WATERWAY SCHEME

PLANS TO CANALIZE THE OHIO RIVER TO ITS MOUTH.

The purpose is to afford nine feet of water in the river every day in the year. The cost will not be less than \$40,000,000 and may go to \$60,000,000.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—Unless Congress in its haste to have economy strangles the River and Harbor bill that is now in course of preparation indirect approval will be given to one of the greatest internal waterway improvement schemes ever proposed for this country. The scheme is to "canalize" the Ohio River from its source to the mouth.

The cost of the undertaking will certainly not be less than \$40,000,000 and may go to \$60,000,000. The purpose will be to afford a nine foot depth of water in the river every day in the year, and thereby make it possible to use the Ohio and the Mississippi for the transportation of bulky freight from the Pittsburgh district to tidewater, via New Orleans.

An appropriation of \$383,000 is recommended by Major Rittet, the engineer in charge of the work in the Pittsburgh district for the purpose of changing the first six dams in the Ohio, between Pittsburgh and Beaver Falls, so as to create pools of at least nine feet depth on the river.

Some of the engineers on duty to whether the sum is sufficient to do the work, the six dams under consideration that Pittsburgh will have a harbor twenty-five miles long, with nine feet of water all the time.

All the dams are under construction and there are now five dams in the river. It is believed that the cost of the work will be a very small increase over the original estimate of cost.

The present plan for the improvement of the river is to construct a series of locks and dams, each to be about 100 feet long and 10 feet deep. The cost of the work will be a very small increase over the original estimate of cost.

By increasing the depth of the first six dams, an immediate improvement will be made for the coal that comes down the Monongahela, amounting to more than 1,000,000 tons annually. The cost of the work will be a very small increase over the original estimate of cost.

The water below Beaver Falls rises to a height sufficient to carry the barges to New Orleans. By increasing the depth of the first six dams, an immediate improvement will be made for the coal that comes down the Monongahela, amounting to more than 1,000,000 tons annually. The cost of the work will be a very small increase over the original estimate of cost.

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WINTER SEA BATHS POPULAR.

MANY ARE NOW TAKING DIP IN THE ICEY WATERS HEREABOUTS.

At Bath Beach, Brooklyn Beach and Sheepshead Bay, the bathing season is in the open—Tide Agree With Frost. Ziegler That It's Healthful.

All year bathing in the waters of Gravesend Bay, Sheepshead and Brooklyn Beach, in Upper New York Bay, is becoming a business rather than a fad. Every day in the year, no matter how severe the weather, a few of the extremists run down the docks to the floats in their bathing suits and dive off into the icy waters.

Every sunny day throughout the winter months a number of men gather on the bathhouse office of Commodore Shields, on the Captain's Pier, at the foot of De Bruyn's lane, Bath Beach, get bathing suits and towels and take a dip in the cold waters of Gravesend Bay, not as the result of devotion to a fad, but for the fun of the thing. Among the regulars there are two or three women who declare that they enjoy the water just as much in the winter months as in the summer.

Until this season there have been no arrangements for dressing in warm bathhouses. For the regular customers a fire is now provided in a clubroom, where the men can dress and be comfortable and avoid having their bathing suits freeze fast to the walls of the bathhouse. After they have been hung up, a new system of heating the bathhouses on Captain's Pier will be installed by Shields. If the business holds good, not less than twenty persons a day are now taking the winter outdoor bathing in Gravesend Bay.

The Brooklyn Beach bathers are not so well situated as those at Bath Beach, having only an old building for a bathhouse. At this time of the year, but there is a growing interest in the sport, and an attempt will be made to arrange for more comfortable quarters. As it is there are a dozen men and one woman who may be found almost every day taking their dip in the Bay and swimming about in the cold waters.

At Sheepshead Bay the headquarters is in the Varina Boat Club's old house. Here a score of men and women gather almost every day. Magistrate James G. Tighe of Brooklyn is the leading spirit. On Christmas day, despite the storm and the severe cold, there were two or three swimmers in the water. The Magistrate was among them. He said it was one of the finest swims he had ever seen.

Why, this cold water swimming isn't such an unheard of thing," declared Prof. Ziegler, a health culturist. "If a man or woman will get accustomed to it, there is nothing better in the world than a quick dash into the cold water of the bay or river. It runs counter to the law of nature. Too much of it is, of course, not good. But for a few minutes two or three times a week, or in fact every morning, there is nothing better for the nerves and the general health of the body than a run into the cold water.

When men are there who take their cold bath at home every morning in the year? Do you ever hear of one out of the many thousands so doing becoming ill? No, because the cold water is so good for the system that a sudden change always leaves. When a man leaves the waters of the river or bay he will experience no change of temperature—he is surrounded by the same atmosphere—and he can enjoy the rubdown, because his blood is brought into action by the gradual transition from chill to warmth."

"I believe the beneficial effects of cold weather—winter—bathing will soon be recognized. It is a good thing for the system that a sudden change always leaves. When a man leaves the waters of the river or bay he will experience no change of temperature—he is surrounded by the same atmosphere—and he can enjoy the rubdown, because his blood is brought into action by the gradual transition from chill to warmth."

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"Your Health"

The very life of the grape—most healthful of fruits—the sunshine and zest it has gathered as it ripened in the vineyard, is contained in

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